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Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: TGEN, JA, US
SUBJECT: OVERALL REVIEW OF US/JAPAN S&T COOPERATION

REF: TOKYO 0418

SUMMARY: FONOFF HAS MADE DEFINITE PROPOSAL OF EARLY MARCH FOR FIRST MEETING OF OVERALL REVIEW PANEL IN TOKYO, AND HAS PROPOSED TEXT OF GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARRANGMEENTS THAT MARCH DATE WOULD PROBABLY BE VERY DIFFICULT, AND PROMISED EARLIEST ADVICE OF DEFINITE US PROPOSAL ON TIMING AND JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT. ACTION REQUESTED: ADVICE ON TIMING O FIRST MEETING AND ACCEPTABILITY OF JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. SCICOUNS MET WITH MATSUURA, FONOFF, ON JAN 23 AT LATTER'S REQUEST FOR DISCSSION OF STEPS REQUIRED TO GET OVERALL REVIEW UNDERWAY. HIROSHI MASUDA, SELECTED AS JAPANESE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF REVIEW, AND JUNIOR OFFICER IN FIRST NORTH AMERICA DIVISION WHO WILL FOLLOW REVIEW AS PRIORITY ASSIGNMENT WERE ALSO PRESENT. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT, DESPITE DELAYS OF PAST, GOJ IS NOW READY AND ANXIOUS TO GET REVIEW UNDERWAY.

2. MATSUURA SPECIFICALLY PROPOSED, AS HE HAD ALREADY DONE INFORMALLY, (REFTEL) THAT FIRST PANEL MEETING BE HELD IN FIRST WEEK OF MARCH AND THAT A JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT IN WASHINGTON AND TOKYO ON ESTABLISHMENT OF PANEL AND AGREEMENT ON ARRANGEMENTS BE ISSUED ON JANUARY 31.
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PROPOSED TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT BEING TRANSMITTED SEPTEL.

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3. SCICOUNS INFORMED MATSUURA THAT WHILE NO FORMAL REACTION YET
RECEIVED FRM DEPT TO MATSUURA'S EARLIER SUGGESTION OF MARCH
MEETING, SCICOUNS HAD INFORMAL INDICATIONS THAT MARCH MEETING
WOULD NOW BE ESTREAMELY DIFFICULT. SCICOUNS EXPLEAINED DIFF-
ICULTY ON BASIS THAT, DUE TO LONG DELAYS, OEVERALL REVIEW
HAD IN EFFECT, "LOST IT PLACE IN LINE" IN RELATION
TO OTHER PROJECTS WHICH HAD TO BE ACCOMODATED WITHIN LIMITED
RESOURCES. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER, IF MARCH DATE UNA-
CCEPTABLE, US HAD ALTERNATE DATE TO PROPOSE, SCICOUNS
INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD APRIL WAS POSSIBILITY, BUT WAS NOT IN
POSITION TO PROPOSE THIS AS ALTERNATE. MATSURA SHOWED
EVIIDENTT DISAPPOINTMENT IN POSSIBILITY OF DELAY BEYOND MARCH,
BUT CONCLUDDD ONE MONTH'S DELAY NOT INTOLERABLE PROVIDED US AND GOJ
COULD REACH EARLY DECISION ON SPECIFIC DATE. EMBASSY SHARES
VIEW THAT IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT A FIRM DATE BE AGREED AND ANN-
OUNCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ALLOW FIRM PLANS TO BE MADE BY ALL
CONCERNED FOR PARTICIPATION THIS PROJECT. EMBASSY IS
PREPARED FOR EARLY MARCH MEETING, IF DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS
THIS DESIRABLE (ALTHOUGH TIME FOR PREPARATION IS NOW
EXTREAMELY SHORT EVEN AT THIS END.) ALTERNATIVELY, EMBASSY
SUGGESTS MEETING BEGIN APRIL 14, WITH PRECEDING WEEK AVAILALBLE FOR
VISITS RECOMMENDED IN REFTEL.

4. WITH REGARD TO ANNOUNCEMENT, MATSUURA CONCLUDED THAT IF SOME
DELAY IN PANEL MEETING IS INEVITIABLE, ANNOUNCEMENT (WHICH REQ-
UIRES GOJ CABINET APPROVAL) NEED NOT BE RUSHED TO MEET EARLIER
FONOFF TARGET OF JANAURY 31. HOWEVER, FOR REASONS INDICATED,
EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE FOR ANNOUNCEMENT IS IMPORTANT. EMBASSY
BELEIVES TEXT (SEPTEL), WHICH ESSENTIALLY TRACKS US TALKING
PAPER OF JUNE 21, 1974 (STATE 128932), IS SATISFACTORY AND
RECOMMENDS ACCEPTANCE. NAMES OF THREE SENIOR PANELISTS ON EACH
SIDE WOULD BE INCLUDED IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER AT TIME OF
ISSUANCE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EARLIEST POSSIBLE ADVICE OF US PROPOSAL
FOR MEETING DATE, AND APPROVAL OF TEXT OF JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT.
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